

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1321

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LIMA 7045

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 7. CORRECTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN PE

SUBJ: PERU'S IMF STANDBY

REF: LIMA 6679

1. SUMMARY. A CENTRAL BANK SOURCE HAS PROVIDED IMF STANDBY DOCUMENTS ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS. DOCUMENTS CONFIRM BASIC ELEMENTS OF STANDBY PROGRAM REPORTED REFTEL, EXCEPT DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT. WE DO NOT KNOW IF DOCUMENTS ARE COMPLETELY FINAL. HOWEVER, TELEX FROM THE FUND TO THE CENTRAL BANK INDICATES THAT AGREEMENT IS NEAR AND THAT FUND MANAGEMENT IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT GOP REQUEST FOR STANDBY PROVIDING VARIOUS MINOR REVISIONS IN DOCUMENTS ARE FORWARDED. (DOCUMENTS POUCHED ARA/AND/P-FULLER). END SUMMARY.

2. AMOUNTS OF TRANCHE RELEASES. THE STANDBY ARRANGEMENT PROVIDES SDR 184 MILLION AND IS TO LAST THROUGH 1980. SCHEDULE OF DRAWINGS DIFFERS FROM THAT REPORTED REFTEL. THE FIRST TRANCHE IN AMOUNT OF SDR 12 MILLION IS AVAILABLE UPON SIGNATURE AND THE SECOND TRANCHE OF SDR 12 MILLION IS AVAILABLE ON DECEMBER 10, 1978. THE THIRD TRANCHE OF SDR 20 MILLION IS AVAILABLE ON FEB-
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RURARY 10, 1979. SUBSEQUENTLY EACH ADDITIONAL TRANCHE IN AMOUNT OF SDR 20 MILLION IS AVAILABLE AT THREE-MONTH INTERVALS.

3. THE GOP MEMORANDUM TO THE IMF. THE GOP MEMORANDUM TO THE IMF FOCUSES ON EXCESSIVE EXPANSION OF DOMESTIC DEMAND SINCE 1968 AS THE PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF PERU'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND STATES THAT DEMAND WAS SPURRED BY AN OVERLY AMBITIOUS GOVERNMENT INVEST-

MENT PROGRAM, EXCESSIVE GROWTH OF SUBSIDIES AND OTHER CURRENT GOVERNMENT OUTLAYS WHILE PUBLIC REVENUES REMAINED STAGNANT. IN SPITE OF MEASURES TAKEN BETWEEN 1975 AND 1977 GOVERNMENT SPENDING CONTINUED TO OUTSTRIP REVENUES. THE IMPORTANCE OF DEBT RESCHEDULING IS RECOGNIZED SPECIFICALLY. THE MEMORANDUM STATES THAT THE GOP IS CURRENTLY SEEKING AN ADDITIONAL ROLL-OVER OF \$185 MILLION IN PRIVATE COMMERCIAL DEBT AFTER THE JANUARY 3, 1979 DEADLINE AND A PROGRAM LOAN OF AT LEAST \$100 MILLION FROM THE WORLD BANK. IT ALSO NOTES THE NEED TO RESCHEDULE THE BULK OF THE \$730 MILLION OF PUBLIC SECTOR MATURITIES FALLING DUE IN 1979.

4. OBJECTIVES OF PROGRAM. OBJECTIVES OF THE TWO AND A HALF YEAR STABILIZATION PROGRAM ARE REVIVAL OF PRODUCTION IN STRATEGIC SECTORS (E.G. EXPORTS, MINING), RESTORATION OF BALANCE OF PAYMENTS EQUILIBRIUM, AND SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION OF INFLATION (IF POSSIBLE, A 50 PERCENT REDUCTION IN 1979 FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER 50 PERCENT DECREASE IN 1980). THE KEY-STONE OF THE ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM IS FISCAL RESTRAINT INCLUDING SIGNIFICANT CUTBACKS IN PUBLIC SPENDING AND DEFICIT FINANCING BY THE CENTRAL BANK AND A SHIFT IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURES TOWARD MORE INVESTMENT. (THE DEFICIT OF THE NON-FINANCIAL PUBLIC SECTOR IS SCHEDULED TO DECLINE FROM 6-1/2 PERCENT OF GDP IN 1978 TO LESS THAN 2 PERCENT IN 1979 TO AN EVEN SMALLER RATION IN 1980.)

5. WAGE AND PRICE POLICY. THE MEMORANDUM POINTS OUT THAT THE

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GOVERNMENT BEGAN MORE SEVERE FISCAL RESTRAINT IN MAY BY INCREASING TAXES AND REDUCING SUBSIDIES, AND THAT FURTHER REDUCTION IN CURRENT GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE IS PLANNED. MOREOVER, THE GOP PLANS TO INSTITUTE MEASURES TO INCREASE TAX REVENUE AND TO KEEP PRICES CHARGED BY STATE ENTERPRISES IN LINE WITH COSTS. FUTURE WAGE INCREASES WILL RECOGNIZE PERUVIAN ECONOMIC REALITIES, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROTECTING THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF LOWEST PAID WORKERS. IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE WAGE-PRICE POLICIES SHOULD REDUCE RECOURSE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR TO DOMESTIC BANK CREDIT AND PERMIT ADEQUATE FLOWS OF CREDIT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

6. INTEREST RATES AND EXCHANGE RATES. NO SPECIFIC GOALS ARE ENUMERATED FOR INTEREST RATES OR FOR EXCHANGE RATES. HOWEVER, THE MEMORANDUM RECOGNIZES THAT FINANCIAL ASSETS IN PERU SHOULD YIELD A POSITIVE RATE OF RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MANAGEMENT OF THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATE WILL BE GUIDED BY DOMESTIC PRICE DEVELOPMENTS, INTERNATIONAL RESERVE TARGETS AND THE PURSUIT OF THE "SPEEDIEST POSSIBLE CONVERGENCE" OF THE TWO EXCHANGE MARKETS (OFFICIAL AND CERTIFICATE). THE BASIC MINIMUM FINANCING REQUIREMENT FOR IMPORTS WILL BE GRADUALLY REDUCED, HELPING TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF

PROMPT AVAILABILITY OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR LEGITIMATE ECONOMIC TRANSACTIONS. MOREOVER, NO NEW RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS MAY BE INTRODUCED OR EXISTING ONES INTENSIFIED (E.G. NON-AUTOMATIC IMPORT LICENSES).

7. SPECIFIC COMPLIANCE TARGETS. THE SPECIFIC COMPLIANCE TARGETS SET OUT IN THE STANDBY ARRANGEMENT (AND DESCRIBED IN THE GOP MEMORANDUM) INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: (1) SPECIFIC LIMITS ON THE NET DOMESTIC ASSETS OF THE CENTRAL BANK, (2) SPECIFIC LIMITS ON NET DOMESTIC CREDIT OF THE PERUVIAN BANKING SYSTEM TO THE PUBLIC SECTOR, (3) SPECIFIC TARGETS FOR THE NEW INTERNATIONAL RESERVE POSITION OF THE CENTRAL BANK, (4) LIMITS ON THE CONTRACTING OF NEW CREDITS BY THE PUBLIC SECTOR, (5) A REQUIRED REDUCTION IN THE BASIC MINIMUM
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FINANCING REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTS, AND (6) A STRONG PROHIBITION AGAINST ANY NEW RESTRICTION ON IMPORTS OR OTHER RESTRICTIONS ON CURRENT ACCOUNT (B/P) PAYMENTS AND TRANSFERS. (COMMENT: THE STANDBY SPECIFIES NET INTERNATIONAL POSITION TESTS ONLY FOR THE CENTRAL BANK IN CONTRAST TO THE MORE GLOBAL BANKING SYSTEM NET INTERNATIONAL RESERVE POSITION OF THE NOVEMBER 1977 STANDBY. THE STANDBY ALSO OMITTS TEST LIMITS ON NET DOMESTIC ASSETS OF THE BANKING SYSTEM AND PLACES THE TEST ON THE NET DOMESTIC ASSETS OF THE CENTRAL BANK. THEREFORE, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO ASCERTAIN THE IMPLICATIONS FOR SUCH ECONOMIC VARIABLES AS THE TOTAL NET INTERNATIONAL RESERVE POSITION AND BANKING SYSTEM NET DOMESTIC CREDIT.)

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8. TARGETS FOR NET CREDIT TO PUBLIC SECTOR. THE SPECIFIC LIMITS ON NET CREDIT TO THE PUBLIC SECTOR OF THE BANKING SYSTEM ARE AS FOLLOWS: NOVEMBER 15, 1978, S/.271 BILLION; ON MARCH 31, 1979, S/.298 BILLION; ON JUNE 30, 1979, S/.318 BILLION; ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1979, S/.335 BILLION; AND ON DECEMBER 31, 1979, S/.359 BILLION. THESE LIMITS ARE REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT OF ANY CUMULATIVE DISBURSEMENTS OF B/P SUPPORT LOANS TO THE NON-FINANCIAL PUBLIC SECTOR WHICH DO NOT GENERATE AN EQUIVALENT DEPOSIT IN THE CENTRAL BANK. THE LIMITS ON NET DOMESTIC ASSETS OF THE CENTRAL BANK ARE AS FOLLOWS: S/.206 BILLION FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1 TO NOVEMBER 15, 1978, S/.216 BILLION FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 16 TO DECEMBER 31, 1978, AND IN 1979 BY QUARTERS: S/.274 FOR THE FIRST QUARTER, S/.305 BILLION FOR THE SECOND QUARTER S/.371 BILLION FOR THE THIRD QUARTER AND S/.396 BILLION FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER. THOSE LIMITS ARE REDUCED BY ANY CUMULATIVE DISBURSEMENTS OF B/P SUPPORT LOANS TO THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

9. THE NET INTERNATIONAL RESERVE TARGET. THE TARGETS FOR THE NET INTERNATIONAL RESERVE POSITION OF THE CENTRAL BANK ARE AS FOLLOWS: (WITH ALL NUMBERS NEGATIVE): NOVEMBER 15, 1978, DOLS 660 MILLION; MARCH 31, 1979, DOLS 615 MILLION; JUNE 30, 1979, DOLS 587 MILLION; SEPTEMBER 30, 1979, DOLS 534 MILLION; AND DECEMBER 31, 1979, DOLS 513 MILLION. THESE TARGETS ARE SUBJECT CONFIDENTIAL

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TO AN IMPORTANT ADJUSTMENT PROCESS. CERTAIN ASSUMED B/P SUPPORT LOANS ARE INCLUDED IN THE RESERVE TARGETS AND IF SUCH ASSUMED LOANS ARE NOT FORTHCOMING AS ACTUAL LOANS, THE RESERVE TARGET WOULD BE ADJUSTED. FOR EXAMPLE, THE ASSUMED CUMULATIVE DISBURSEMENT OF B/P SUPPORT AND REFINANCING CREDITS FOR DECEMBER 31, 1979 IS DOLS 588 MILLION. IF PERU HAD ACTUALLY RECEIVED ONLY DOLS 400 MILLION IN SUCH CREDITS BY THAT DATE, THE ADJUSTED TARGET WOULD BE DOLS - 701 MILLION, (I.E. NEGATIVE 513 PLUS 400 NEGATIVE 588).

10. RESTRICTIONS ON NEW LOAN CONTRACTS. THE LIMITS ON CONTRACTING NEW EXTERNAL DEBT BY PERU'S NONFINANCIAL PUBLIC SECTOR ARE AS FOLLOWS: DURING THE PERIOD JULY 1, 1978 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1979, DOLS 300 MILLION OF CREDITS OF ONE TO TEN YEAR TERM AND DOLS 135 IN THE ONE TO FIVE YEAR CATEGORY AND FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 1978 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1979, DOLS 450 MILLION OF CREDITS OF ONE TO TEN YEAR TERM AND DOLS 200 MILLION IN THE ONE TO FIVE YEAR CATEGORY. THESE LIMITS EXCLUDE PROGRAM LOANS, GENERAL PURPOSE BANK CREDITS, AND REFINANCING CREDITS AND EXPORT PREFINANCING CREDITS PROVIDED BY THE IDB OR IBRD AS WELL AS

PRIVATE SECTOR EXPORT CREDIT LINES CHanneled THROUGH
COFIDE OR THE BANCO INDUSTRIAL.

11. REDUCTION IN IMPORT FINANCING REQUIREMENT. THE BASIC
MINIMUM FINANCING REQUIREMENT FOR PRIVATE SECTOR IMPORTS WILL
BE REDUCED FROM 180 DAYS TO NO MORE THAN 150 DAYS BY DECEMBER
31, 1978, TO NO MORE THAN 120 DAYS BY JUNE 30, 1979 AND TO
NO MORE THAN 90 DAYS BY DECEMBER 31, 1979 AND WILL BE
ELIMINATED ALTOGETHER WITHIN 1980.
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